AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 9-16 and amend Claims 1 and 18 as follows.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A shock absorber piston assembly, comprising:

a piston having a first face and an opposed second face, the piston defining a plurality of separate fluid passages allowing fluid communication through only the piston between the first face and the second face;

a piston rod attached to the piston; and

a plurality of flow control devices each operably sealing at least one of the fluid passages, including:

a first bleed plate operably contacting the first face and a second bleed plate operably contacting the second face;

a first blow-off disc operably contacting the first face and a second blow-off disc operably contacting the second face; and

a compression device operably maintaining each of the flow control devices in a closed position in contact with the piston; wherein

each of the flow control devices operably opens at an individually adjustable device opening pressure; and

the compression device comprises a spring; wherein the spring comprises:

a spring engagement end fixedly engaged with a slot of the piston rod; and

a spring force distribution end in contact with the first bleed plate.

2.-5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) The piston assembly of Claim 1, wherein the compression device comprises at least one spring disc plate operably maintaining contact between each of the blow-off discs and the piston.

7. (previously presented) The piston assembly of Claim 6, further comprising a preload spacer connectably affixed to the piston rod and operably preloading the at least one spring disc plate.

8. (previously presented) The piston assembly of Claim 7, further comprising an interface disc located between the at least one spring disc plate and each of the blow-off discs.

9.-16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The control assembly of Claim 10, wherein each bleed passage is located interior to each fluid passage.

18. (currently amended) A shock absorber, comprising:

a piston tube;

a piston assembly slidably disposed within the piston tube and operably dividing the piston tube into a first working chamber and a second working chamber, the piston assembly including:

(i) a piston having a first face and an opposed second face, the piston defining a plurality of separate fluid passages allowing fluid communication through only the piston between the first face and the second face; and

(ii) a plurality of flow control devices each operably sealing at least one of the fluid passages, including:

(a) a first bleed plate operably contacting the first face and a second bleed plate operably contacting the second face; and

(b) a first blow-off disc operably contacting the first face and a second blow-off disc operably contacting the second face;

a piston rod fastenably attached to the piston assembly; and

a compression device operably maintaining each of the flow control devices in a closed position in contact with the piston; wherein

each of the flow control devices operably opens at an individually adjustable device opening pressure; and

the compression device comprises a spring; wherein the spring comprises:

a spring engagement end fixedly engaged with a slot of the piston rod; and

a spring force distribution end in contact with the first bleed plate.

19. (previously presented) The shock absorber of Claim 18, wherein the piston tube comprises a first end fitting connectable to an axle assembly of an automobile vehicle.

20. (previously presented) The shock absorber of Claim 19, further comprising:

a second end fitting fixedly connectable to the piston rod and operably connecting the shock absorber to a vehicle body of an automobile vehicle.

21.-27. (cancelled)